



FORMER BASEBALL STAR IN A NEW ROLE

Lou Gehrig at his desk in the Parole Commission offices here yesterday as he began his duties as a member of the board.

Times Wide World

GEHRIG BEGINS JOB ON PAROLE BOARD

Refuses to 'Spout' Ideas on Crime Till He Has Been at Work One Year

Lou Gehrig, former baseball star of the New York Yankees, began his official duties as a member of the Parole Commission yesterday with the declaration that he would not "spout" about his ideas on crime and criminals until he had had at least a year's experience in his new work.

Named to the commission by Mayor La Guardia last October, Mr. Gehrig has attended its meetings regularly and has read widely in the field of penology. He drove down from his home in Riverdale yesterday and reached the commission's offices at 139 Center Street shortly after 9 o'clock. He found a group of reporters and photographers waiting for him. Asked about his immediate plans, he said:

"I hope to be able to do something constructive in the rehabilitation of criminals, most of whom, as we know, are young. I have been studying the subject since my appointment was announced by the Mayor. I've got ideas on crime and the handling of criminals, but I'm not going to talk about them for one year. I want to become fully acquainted with my duties before I start spouting about crime."

Asked about his health, the ex-ball player said he felt "grand." His retirement from baseball was forced by a spinal ailment which is still under treatment, but he is robust in appearance. He laughed at reports that his weight had dropped to 130 and declared that he weighed 206 or 207.

When the photographers asked him to pose he rose and removed the briar pipe he had been smoking from his mouth. Asked if he objected to posing with the pipe, he said:

"Well, I don't want to be shown smoking in pictures because of the possible effect on young boys. I can't encourage kids to smoke. I'm going to look through the Tombs tomorrow and will go to Rikers Island the next day—but there will be no pictures then."

The new commissioner said most of his time on his first day had been devoted to reading his mail. Asked what the mail was like, he said:

"Mostly people who want me to speak at dinners, and that kind of thing. On the advice of my physician, I'm not doing anything outside the office while I'm undergoing this intensive treatment."

Miss Mary A. Frasca and John C. Maher, Mr. Gehrig's fellow-members on the Parole Commission, greeted him upon his arrival. The commission handles about 6,000 cases a year, the majority involving young offenders.